Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Many years ago in the town of Kimball, a young boy named Richard Benda learned three valuable life lessons: a good story can get you out of trouble; being a fast talker can get you out of more trouble; and being a team player and hard worker can keep you out of trouble; and,

Whereas, Richard put his story telling skills to work during his nearly 20-year tenure with the state of South Dakota by sharing stories about his time in upstate New York; his travels; his adventures with his daughter, Claire; his hilarious stories about his childhood in Kimball; and "the Janklow years"; and,

Whereas, Richard put his fast talking skills to work during his time at Tourism and State Development by convincing companies to move to South Dakota, investors to give money to South Dakota, banks to loan money to businesses, boards to approve those loans, and the Governor's Office to continue to approve his intense travel schedule; and,

Whereas, Richard put his team player and hard work skills to use by schlepping more boxes than he can count, logging more miles on his car than any other boss in the history of the department, stopping at small town business establishments just to check in, and by never quitting until the job was done; and,

Whereas, Richard now departs the Department of Tourism and State Development. We know his passion for this state, for his family, and for economic development will always be a part of who he is; and,

Whereas, It is fitting and proper as Governor to recognize Richard's contributions to the state of South Dakota during his many years of employment with state government:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim December 22, 2010, as

RICHARD BENDA DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-second Day of December in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Ten.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State